

## **LEGAL NOTICE**

### Public Hearing and State Plant Board Quarterly Meeting

The Arkansas State Plant Board will meet at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at the State Plant Board offices, #1 Natural Resources, Drive, Little Rock, AR.

1. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at the State Plant Board offices, #1 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205 beginning at 1:30PM for the purpose of receiving public comments on the proposed Blackberry Certification Program.

This program is being proposed for the purpose of establishing regulations to facilitate production of Blackberry plants (*Rubus spp.*) in Arkansas. Currently, regulations for conducting a Certification program for blackberries do not exist in the state. The blackberry nursery stock growers need this program to enable them to capitalize on the demand for uninfected stock of Arkansas produced varieties.

In the absence of a certification program, Arkansas produced stock suffers from the impression of having an incidence of viruses and other diseases at a level of infestation that is commercially unacceptable. This results in many interested parties searching for sources of nursery stock in locations other than Arkansas. These proposed rules set the standards and conditions nursery stock must meet to be classified as one of the "Certified Grades" as defined in the regulations.

### **Written comments will be accepted until close of business on September 17, 2004.**

2. Election of Officers.
3. Approval of Board meeting minutes.
4. Approval of pest control exam grades.
5. Standing Committee reports.
6. Other business.

Board meetings are open to the public. If you wish to submit a written comment on the above mentioned public hearing, please send written comment to the Arkansas State Plant Board, PO Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203. Oral comment may be made at the public hearing. For further information concerning the meeting, contact Darryl Little, Director, at 501-225-1598.

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Darryl Little, Director